

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 19, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 8, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 115

Introduced by Senator Chesbro

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Arambula, Baca, Bass, Benoit, Berg, Blakeslee, Calderon, Canciamilla, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cogdill, Cohn, Coto, Daucher, De La Torre, DeVore, Dymally, Emmerson, Evans, Frommer, Garcia, Goldberg, Hancock, Jerome Horton, Shirley Horton, Houston, Huff, Jones, Karnette, Keene, Klehs, Koretz, La Malfa, La Suer, Laird, Leno, Leslie, Levine, Lieber, Lieu, Liu, Matthews, McCarthy, Montanez, Mountjoy, Mullin, Nakanishi, Nation, Nava, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Oropeza, Parra, Pavley, Plescia, Richman, Ridley-Thomas, Sharon Runner, Ruskin, Saldana, Salinas, Spitzer, Strickland, Torrico, Tran, Umberg, Vargas, Villines, Wolk, Wyland, and Yee)

April 24, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 115—Relative to “Year of the Community.”

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 115, as amended, Chesbro. Year of the Community and Developmental Disabilities.

This measure would proclaim the year 2006 as “Year of the Community” and would declare that the Legislature will actively promote the rights of persons with developmental disabilities and their full inclusion into community life.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Forty years ago the State of California launched a
2 bold experiment in public-private partnership that fundamentally
3 changed and dramatically improved the quality of life for people
4 with developmental disabilities and their families and that would
5 become a model for the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, The vision to enable people with developmental
7 disabilities to live full, productive, and satisfying lives as active
8 members of their communities was embodied in a statewide
9 network of community-based services and supports with regional
10 centers playing the role of the coordinating hub; and

11 WHEREAS, California's first pilot regional centers for
12 delivering services to persons with developmental disabilities,
13 the Childrens Hospital at Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Aid
14 for Retarded Children, which opened in 1966, marked the
15 beginning of the regional center system; and

16 WHEREAS, By their achievements, the pilot centers proved
17 the merit of the regional center concept and led to the
18 introduction of Assembly Bill No. 225 in 1969, which enacted
19 the Lanterman Mental Retardation Services Act of 1969, which
20 is currently known as the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities
21 Services Act, and which established the statewide system of
22 services for persons with developmental disabilities; and

23 WHEREAS, The statewide system was designed to be
24 organized at the regional level and to produce a dynamic network
25 of local services and supports; and

26 WHEREAS, The increased availability of services in the
27 community precipitated the state's shift from nearly total reliance
28 on large state institutions to a regional service system in which
29 more than 98 percent of children and adults with developmental
30 disabilities receive all of their needed services and supports in the
31 community; and

32 WHEREAS, The regional center system was intended to
33 provide services and supports to individuals with developmental
34 disabilities that are innovative and cost effective, that result in
35 growth and development, that improve the quality of life, and
36 that support inclusion into community life; and

37 WHEREAS, During the decades following the passage of the
38 Lanterman Act, the service system's evolution was enabled by
39 advances in knowledge and technology and by the increasing
40 recognition of the right of people with disabilities to choice and

1 full participation in society, including the rights of children to
2 live at home with their families; and

3 WHEREAS, The 21 regional centers in California continue to
4 expand and diversify their services while serving over 200,000
5 persons with developmental disabilities and their families; and

6 WHEREAS, The service system has grown increasingly
7 complex, requirements for service providers have grown in
8 sophistication, and expectations for services have become more
9 rigorous due to advances in knowledge and technology; and

10 WHEREAS, The 40th anniversary of the regional center
11 system is an appropriate time to reaffirm our commitment to the
12 Lanterman Act, and renew our investment in the community
13 system; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
16 year of 2006 as the “Year of the Community” and the beginning
17 of a decade of renewed commitment to the vision of the
18 Lanterman Act and investment in the community service system;
19 and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Legislature will actively promote the rights
21 of people with developmental disabilities and their full inclusion
22 into community life in California; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
24 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.